Timber treated with Ascu by the Development Department.

397. *MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the cost incurred by the Development Department for treating timber with Ascu since the process was started; and

(*b*) the price realised by the disposal of such timber during the period?

DR. S. K. PILLAI (*Technical Assistant in charge of the duties of the Director of Development*): (*a*) Rs. 32,303-9-5.

(*b*) Rs. 99,610-19-13.

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI: Does the price include the price of timber sold to various Government departments?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: The price is Rs. 32,303.....

PRESIDENT: Honourable member is expected to hear the question before answering it.

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I wanted to know with reference to part (*d*) of the answer whether the price of timber sold include the price of timber sold to several Government departments.

DR. S. K. PILLAI: I claim notice Sir.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Is the treatment going on now?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: Yes.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Is there demand for treated timber either in Travancore or outside?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: There is demand in Travancore as well as from outside.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Have any orders been booked now?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: Yes.

MR. KAINIKARA M PADMANABHA PILLAI: Are these orders coming from outside or inside?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: The electrical Department and Telephone Departments in Travancore have ordered for treated poles also the Madras Electrical Department has placed an order for the same.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: May I know the quantity of timber required outside Travancore at present?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: About 1000 poles.

Representation from the Abkari Contractors.

398. *MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether representations have been made to the Government by the Abkari Contractors of Quilon praying for reduction in contract amount, tree tax, etc.;

(*b*) whether they have made enquiry about the appalling fall in the sale of toddy in these two years at Quilon;

(*c*) whether the closing of a few factories in Quilon has considerably contributed to the fall in sale of toddy; and

(*d*) whether the Government have made any such reductions in previous years?

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